

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

THE CONCENTRATION OF THE MEDIA OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS HAS PROFOUNDLY REDUCED THE DIVERSITY AND DEPTH OF OPINION, ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR ROUTINE, CONVENIENT PUBLIC ACCESS, AND THEREBY DESTROYED THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY. THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS IS NOW DOMINATED BY A VERY FEW CORPORATIONS, WHO (AS RENTERS OF THE PUBLIC'S AIR-WAVES) HAVE BETRAYED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO TO SERVE THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST BY THEIR SINGLE-MINDED COMMITMENT TO MAXIMIZE PROFITS AND MINIMIZE, IF NOT ELIMINATE, IN-DEPTH, TIMELY, AND CRITICALLY COMPREHENSIVE NEWS REPORTING (ESPECIALLY IF THE SUBJECT MATTER INVOLVES PUBLIC POLICY WHICH MIGHT THREATEN THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS OR POSSIBLY SUBJECT THEIR CORPORATE SPONSORS TO CRITICISM). ANY FURTHER CONCENTRATION OF THE MEDIA WILL CONDEMN THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS TO CRIPPLING AND INEXORABLE POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL ILLITERACY, AND CONSEQUENTLY RENDER THEM INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THEIR REAL INTERESTS AND PARTICIPATING EFFECTIVELY IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES TO REALIZE THEM. I AM UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO ANY WEAKENING OR MODIFICATION OF RULES WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO FURTHER MEDIA CONCENTRATION.